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LEIGHTON BUZZARD URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and of
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year
1952

H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

M. S. LESLIE, M.R.San.I. R.S.A. (Scot.)

Sanitary Inspector

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Leighton Buzzard Urban District Council**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Leighton Buzzard Urban District.

Inspection of the statistics shows that the birth and death rates for the area compared favourably with the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and it is satisfactory to note that again there were no maternal deaths. Six infant deaths occurred during the year, but wide variations of this figure are to be expected in a small population.

The incidence of infectious disease was generally low during the year, but three cases of poliomyelitis occurred, one proving fatal.

As in previous years, housing remains the chief problem in public health; and with the average age group of the population steadily rising, more provision will be required for the older age groups. This is a long-term problem which will increase in the future, but present policy can help to meet the future needs before the position becomes acute.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the officials and their staff for their help and co-operation, since I succeeded Dr. Pleydell in November.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. BURY,

Medical Officer of Health.

19th September, 1953.

STAFF IN PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—1952

Medical Officer of Health: M. J. Pleydell, M.C., M.D., D.P.H. (Resigned, Sept., 1952)

Medical Officer of Health: H. S. Bury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (App., Nov., 1952)

Sanitary Inspector: M. S. Leslie, M.R.San.I., Cert.R.S.A. (Scot.),

Meat Inspector: Capt. W. A. Gibbs, M.R.C.V.S.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

	1932	1942	1952
Area in Acres	2426	2487	2487
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	6933	7348	9195
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the			
Rate Book	1963	2182	2808
Rateable Value at end of December, 1952	£35,665	£40,241	£50,711
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£138	£161	£197

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Urban District is a fairly compact one of 2,487 acres, from which the roads radiate in three main directions to a large farming area. The town itself is nearly 300 feet above sea level and is pleasantly situated in the centre of the district. The very wide High Street is a feature of the town and, along with Market Square, constitutes the main Banking and Commercial area.

The post-war residential development still clings to the northern part of the town, with the industrial development in the south. There is land in the southern half, however, which has been earmarked for future housing development, which will help to create a more balanced community.

Sand quarrying and a number of associated works engaged in the manufacture of roofing and floor tiles and concrete products, still remain the chief industries of the town. Light industrial establishments engaged in the manufacture of corsets, clothing and stationery, employ a considerable number of female hands from Leighton Buzzard and surrounding districts.

It would benefit Leighton Buzzard greatly if more diverse industries could be attracted into the town, but the lack of suitable and sufficient labour to man these industries is just not available. Since the war, the unemployment figure in Leighton Buzzard has been extremely low and continues to be so.

Sport and recreation are provided by privately-owned grounds in the southern part of the Town, with facilities for football, cricket, tennis and bowls. Pleasure grounds owned by the Council also provide for sport and recreation and certain areas have been planned for extension. The new Housing Estate also has a play-ground area in close proximity to the shopping area.

In view of its height above sea level and its being situated on a sand stratum, Leighton Buzzard can be considered to have a healthy environment.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

					Total	Male	Female
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	167	96	71
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	12	3	9
					—	—	—
				Total	179	99	86
					—	—	—

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the home resident population is 19.5.

Birth Rate for England and Wales: 15.3 per 1,000 home population.

					Total	Male	Female
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	4	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					—	—	—
				Total	6	4	2
					—	—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 32.4.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales: 22.6.

DEATHS

						Total	Male	Female
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	113	69	44

giving a crude death rate of 12.3 per 1,000 of the home population.

Death Rate for England and Wales: 11.3 per 1,000 home population.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year. The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 0.72 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

INFANT MORTALITY

Six deaths occurred amongst all infants under one year of age, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 33.5 per 1,000 live births. The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 27.6 per 1,000 live births.

Causes of death under one year:—

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	2
Gastro Enteritis	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Defect	...	...	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH

							Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

									Male	Female
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	—
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	3
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	8	8
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	2
19	Hypertension, with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	3
20	Other heart disease...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	9	9
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	3
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
26	Ulcer stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	4
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
36	Homicide and operations of war...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
								—	—	—
	All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	69	44	44
								—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

The Health Authority for the provision of services under Part III of the National Health Service Act is the Bedfordshire County Council. Administration is in part delegated to Divisions. Leighton Buzzard U.D.C. is represented on the Southern Divisional Health Committee and your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer, thus ensuring close co-operation between the two Authorities. The following services are provided by the County Council.

1.—AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulances or sitting case car transport are available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out-patients of Hospitals using public transport are reimbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The Service also covers the removal to Isolation Hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:—

AMPTHILL, Claridges Lane. Telephone: Ampthill 2187.

BEDFORD, Newnham Avenue. Telephone: Bedford 4875.

BIGGLESWADE, Crab Lane. Telephone: Biggleswade 2295.

DUNSTABLE, High Street, North. Telephone: Dunstable 761.

LINSLADE, 10 New Road (Bucks. C.C.).

Telephone: Leighton Buzzard 3332.

LUTON, 42 Church Street. Telephone: Luton 4600.

RUSHDEN, Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association.

Mr. C. C. Woods, 3 Purvise Road. Telephone: Rushden 403.

2.—DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council are responsible for the provision of this Service, and the Nurses and Midwives in the District are the employees of the County Council.

Direct administration is by the Southern Divisional Health Committee.

The names and addresses of the Nursing and Midwifery Service are as follows:—

Nurse Curry, S.R.N., 8 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard.

Tel.: Leighton Buzzard 3269.

Nurse Todd, S.R.N., S.C.M., 21 Oakley Green, Leighton Buzzard.

Tel.: Leighton Buzzard 2196.

Nurse Bauman, S.R.N., S.C.M., 8 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard.

(Retired, March, 1952).

Tel.: Leighton Buzzard 3269.

Nurse Friedlander, S.R.N., S.C.M., 8 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard.

Tel.: Leighton Buzzard 3269.

3.—HEALTH VISITING

There is one Health Visitor employed by the County Council, who visits the homes of mothers to give advice and help.

4.—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC. Grovebury Road, every Friday, 2—4 p.m.
alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

A Medical Officer and Health Visitor are in attendance, assisted by several voluntary lady workers.

SCHOOL CLINIC. Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Grovebury Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

DENTAL CLINIC.

Grovebury Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.—11.30 a.m.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC.

Grovebury Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

5.—HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE

Under the National Health Act, 1946, the provision of this Service is the responsibility of the County Council, who employ a Health Education Officer, whose advice and assistance are available to the District Council.

6.—HOSPITALS

On 5th July, when the National Health Service Act, 1946, became operative, these Hospitals and Clinics passed into the ownership of the Minister of Health, for whom they are administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of the Royal Bucks. Hospital, Aylesbury, which Hospital is within the Oxford Hospital Board Region.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC. Luton and Dunstable Hospital:—

The Clinic is open daily for both males and females from 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. A Doctor is in attendance on Mondays and Fridays from 6 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

TUBERCULOSIS. There is accommodation for 72 patients at Mogerhanger Sanatorium. Cases from the County are also admitted to other Sanatoria.

CHEST CLINIC. St. Mary's Hospital, Grove Road, Luton:—

Monday Alternate Mondays Patients seen by appointment only by Dr. Leelander, Consultant Physician to the Clinic, and other Mondays reserved for new contacts only.

Tuesday 9.15 a.m.—12 noon. Children.

2 p.m. Female A.P. Refills.

3 p.m. Male A.P. Refills.

6 p.m. Female Clinic.

6.30 p.m. Male Clinic.

Wednesday 9.15 a.m.—1 p.m. New Patients Clinic.

9.15 a.m.—11 a.m. Ante-Natal Clinic.

Thursday 9.15 a.m.—1 p.m. Female Clinic.

Friday 9.15 a.m.—12 noon. Male Clinic.

2 p.m. Female Clinic

3 p.m. Male Clinic.

Saturday 9 a.m.—12 noon. Old Contacts.

GENERAL MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND MATERNITY CASES. These are usually admitted into either the Luton and Dunstable, or St. Mary's Hospital, Luton, or the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Erysipelas, and cases of Measles and Whooping Cough, with complications, are treated at Spittlesea Hospital, Luton.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

No School was closed during the year under review on account of Infectious Disease.

RAINFALL

The Station at which the rainfall is taken is Woburn. The diameter of the funnel of the rain gauge is 8 inches. Height above the ground is 12 inches. Altitude is 291 feet above sea level. Latitude 52 deg. 1 min. N. Longitude 0 deg. 35 min. W.

1952		Monthly Total	No. of Days with .01" or more	RAINFALL IN PREVIOUS YEARS		
		Total		Year	Woburn	England and Wales
January	...	1.51	14			
February	...	0.67	8	1942	19.49	35.9
March	...	3.56	22	1943	19.09	33.4
April	...	1.93	15	1944	22.33	35.3
May	...	2.46	15	1945	20.65	33.27
June	...	1.19	11	1946	28.24	41.6
July	...	0.39	6	1947	18.46	35.23
August	...	3.18	14	1948	28.36	37.62
September	...	3.06	17	1949	20.28	30.9
October	...	2.96	18	1950	30.37	40.2
November	...	3.24	16	1951	30.56	43.7
December	...	2.06	19	1952	26.21	35.5
TOTAL		26.21	175			

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Mann, of the Woburn Experimental Farm, for supplying me with the above information.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT
WATER SUPPLY

The following information has been kindly provided by the Water Engineer.

The new plant, which was begun in July, 1950, and completed in December, 1951, has been working satisfactorily, and throughout the year the quality of the water has maintained a high standard.

Both chemical and bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw and treated water and the following is a typical result of a chemical examination of the treated supply:—

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance.—Bright, with a very slight deposit of minute chalk particles stained with iron oxide.

Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil	Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	Trace
pH	...	...	...	...	8.0	Total Solids	...	...	310
Chlorine as Chloride	...	...	...	...	22	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	165
Hardness: total	...	...	...	...	235	Carbonate	...	...	165
						Non Carbonate	...	...	70
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.026	Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	0.35
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.000	Residual Chlorine	...	...	Absent
Metals: Iron	...	...	...	...	0.24	Manganese	...	...	less than 0.03
						Other Metals	...	...	Absent

The following are particulars of the number of population supplied from Public Water Mains:—

	No. of Houses	Population
Direct to houses	2,796	9,046
From stand pipes	12	37

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The new Sewerage Scheme, described in the 1948 Report, was commenced at the end of 1950 and has now been completed. The completion of this scheme will eliminate the risk of overflowing sewage in certain parts of the low-lying areas, which has occurred when the ejectors have failed to cope with abnormal flows.

SEPTIC TANKS AND CESSPOOLS

New houses still continue to be built in those parts of the district where main drainage is not available. This, unfortunately, is due to the present limited sewerage system and scarcity of available building land. The Council arrange for the emptying of cesspools only on the request of the owner or occupier and two free emptyings are allowed per year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There has been a gradual falling off of caravan dwellers in this area and most of them now are situated at the private caravan site, which was licensed by the Council in December, 1952.

The position at the end of the year was as follows:—

	Granted	Refused
1. Licences to allow land to be used as a site for moveable dwellings	1	Nil
2. Licences to erect, station or use moveable dwellings	6	Nil

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

PREMISES	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	13	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	65	38,	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises) ...	3	4	1	—
TOTAL	81	55	2	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	3	3	1	—
Sanitary Accommodation :				
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	5	1	—

HOUSING

During the year under review, we still found that cottages, which have been considered as unfit to live in since 1934, are being used as houses, in which children are born and reared. The Housing Committee are fully aware of the problems involved in re-housing these families and of the need for houses to replace these cottages.

With regard to Local Authority housing, the following table shows the progress made:—

	Two Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom	Flats	Total
Pre-war Council Houses	4	156	10	—	170
Post-war Council Houses:					
1. Temporary Bungalows	31	—	—	—	31
2. Garden Hedge Estate	—	77	5	16	98
3. Clarence Road Estate:					
(a) Aluminium Bungalows	100	—	—	—	100
(b) Traditional Houses	30	153	8	16	207
(c) Aged Persons' Bungalows	8	—	—	—	8
	—	—	—	—	—
	173	386	23	32	614
	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	235
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	255
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	4
(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose	9
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	30

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	26
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
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2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:								
(a)	By owners ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.								
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:								
(a)	By owners ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
C.	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.								
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
2.	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.								
1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total number of traditional new houses and flats erected and completed in 1951 classified as follows:—									
	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
	By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

There are 20 Milk Distributors and six Dairy premises registered in the Urban District. Inspections throughout the year has ensured that they are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Twelve retail dealers' licences were granted to distributors under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949, of which five were for tuberculin tested milk and seven for pasteurised milk.

Only a small proportion of ungraded milk is being sold within this area.

Thirty-seven samples of milk were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

ICE CREAM

Four premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice cream, which has increased the number of registered premises to 32.

There is only one establishment registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Forty-four samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory and according to the present system of grading, 25 were in Grade I, 15 in Grade II, 4 in Grade III and none in Grade IV.

FOOD PREMISES

Restaurants, shops, stalls and all registered premises where food is prepared, stored or offered for sale are regularly inspected and steps taken to ensure that the premises are maintained in a clean condition and in accordance with the Clean Food Byelaws.

The following articles of food from various premises were examined, found to be unsound, surrendered by the Vendors, and destroyed:—

19 lbs. 9 ozs. tinned Soups	21½ lbs. Smoked Bacon
268 lbs. 11 ozs. tinned Meats	29 lbs. Biscuits
105 lbs. 9 ozs. tinned Vegetables	75 tins of Milk
165 lbs. tinned Ham	

SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The slaughterhouse, which was originally a private one, was taken over by the Ministry in 1940. Meat inspection is carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon, who is employed part-time by the Local Authority. Reference has been made in previous reports to the unsuitable premises and unsatisfactory conditions, and representations have been made to the Ministry that Leighton Buzzard should be retained as a centre for the collection and distribution of livestock and meat, and that for that purpose, the Planning Authority has been asked to designate an area as a suitable site for a new slaughterhouse.

The following is the number of carcasses inspected and condemned during 1952:—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and inspected ...	1279	418	3244	424	5365
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses condemned	1	2	4	2	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	319	5	87	39	450
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	12.079%	5.16 %	3.77 %	15.34 %	—
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcasses condemned	3	—	—	1	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	76	—	2	—	78
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.17 %	—	0.06 %	0.23 %	1.5 %

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1952

DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified													Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 upwards	Age unknown	
Sonné Dysentery	9	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	...
Food Poisoning	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	12	...	...	1	1	...	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	14	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	6	3	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Measles	41	4	4	3	4	7	13	3	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
Whooping Cough	48	2	8	7	5	4	19	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Myelitis	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring treatment are sent to Spittlesea Hospital, Luton. As mentioned earlier in this Report, this Hospital is now the property of the Minister of Health and is administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board through the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Group Management Committee.

SONNE DYSENTERY

Nine cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified throughout the year. Children were the principle sufferers and the infection occurred in the early months of the year. Routine precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the infection.

MEASLES

Following last year's high incidence of this disease, this year's figure was low, only 41 cases being notified.

WHOOPING COUGH

The rate of notification of this disease remained at the same level as that experienced last year.

POLIOMYELITIS

Two paralytic cases and one non-paralytic case occurred during the year. One of the paralytic cases proved fatal. No common factor was found to account for the infection.

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING 1952

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	...	...	...	1 + 1*	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45	...	...	...	1 + 1*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	...	5 + 3*	4	2	1	...	...	...	...

* Transferred from Another District

SCARLET FEVER

Twelve sporadic cases occurred during the year. No common source of infection being detected.

FOOD POISONING

One case of food poisoning was notified, but the cause was not ascertained.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was required to be taken under these Acts.

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

With the coming into force of the National Service Act, 1946, on 5th July, 1949, the County Council assumed responsibility for the functioning of a scheme under which facilities are available for children of all ages to obtain this important preventive treatment free of charge, either from the family doctor at his surgery, or from a medical officer at any of the Welfare Centres or Schools within the County.

Number of children at 31st December, 1951, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (*i.e.*, at any time since 1st January, 1935):—

Age at 31/12/52 (<i>i.e.</i> , born in year)								TOTAL
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	0-14
	29	131	141	160	118	576	318	1473

Estimated mid-year Child Population, 1952:

Under 5, 856; 5—14, 1,258; total, 2,114.

These figures indicate that 67.8 per cent. of the child population under 5 years of age has been immunised against diphtheria, as compared with 52.7 per cent. at the end of 1950. 71.2 per cent. of the child population of 5—14 years has been immunised against diphtheria, as compared with 77.7 per cent. at the end of the previous year; while 69.7 per cent. of the children under 15 years of age has been protected against diphtheria by immunisation, as compared with 67.6 per cent. at the end of 1950.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES

By arrangement with the County Council, infected persons are treated at the Health Centre, Dunstable.

During the year under review no persons have received treatment.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was required under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1952 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each Year	TOTAL BIRTHS				TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		DEATHS TRANSFERABLE		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Live Births		Still Births		Number	Rate per 1000 Resident Population	No. of Registered in the District	No. of Non-Registered in the District	Under one year of age		At all Ages.	
		Number	Rate per 1000 Resident Population	No.	Rate per 1000 Resident Population					Number	Rate per 1000 Net Births.	Number	Rate per 1000 Resident Population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1943	7600	114	15.00	0	0.00	53	6.99	3	40	0	0.00	90	11.84
1944	7601	126	16.57	4	0.52	66	8.68	8	45	9	71.4	103	13.55
1945	7550	163	21.59	6	0.78	63	8.34	0	32	5	30.6	95	12.59
1946	7572	168	22.72	4	0.53	70	9.24	2	35	4	23.8	103	13.73
1947	7730	166	21.50	2	0.25	58	7.50	3	23	4	24.1	78	10.10
1948	8435	165	19.40	4	0.47	71	8.41	4	33	3	18.2	100	11.9
1949	8710	188	21.60	3	0.34	67	7.69	2	44	6	31.3	110	12.6
1950	9105	155	17.00	4	0.44	70	7.69	5	48	5	31.4	113	12.4
1951	9083	180	19.8	7	0.77	69	7.59	5	44	1	5.3	108	11.9
1952	9195	179	19.5	6	0.65	59	6.40	2	56	6	33.5	143	12.3

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